

What to Expect on the NAPLEX

🔍 Questions: 225

🕒 Time limit: **6 hours**

The NAPLEX contains 225 questions (200 scored, 25 unscored), most of which are asked in a scenario-based format. You'll be given 6 hours to complete the exam, plus two optional breaks.

The scored questions are distributed across five content domains:

Domains	Scored Questions
1. Foundational Knowledge for Pharmacy Practice	50
2. Medication Use Process	50
3. Person-Centered Assessment and Treatment Planning	80
4. Professional Practice	10
5. Pharmacy Management and Leadership	10

The 25 unscored questions appear randomly throughout the test, and you won't know whether a question is scored or unscored.

There are three main question types on the NAPLEX:

Multiple-Choice

Each multiple-choice question contains four answer choices. You must choose the one correct answer from those four choices.

Multiple-Response

Each multiple-response question contains five answer choices. You must choose multiple correct answers from those five choices.

Fill-in-the-Blank

Each fill-in-the-blank question requires you to type in your answer.

WEEKS 1-4: Foundational Pharmacology and Pharmaceutics

Topics to study

- ☐ Basic pharmacology principles
- ☐ Drug–receptor interactions
- ☐ Major therapeutic classes
- ☐ Pharmaceutics dosage forms/routes
- ☐ Drug nomenclature conventions

Tasks

- Review key drug facts and regulatory requirements.
- Focus on therapeutic classes and dosage forms

MAIN GOAL

Master essential pharmacology concepts and primary drug classes for a strong therapeutic foundation.

WEEKS 5-8: Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, and Calculations

Topics to study

- ☐ Absorption and distribution
- ☐ Metabolism and excretion parameters
- ☐ Pharmacogenomics basics and genetic variability
- ☐ Bioavailability and half-life calculations
- ☐ Dose and concentration calculations
- ☐ Interpreting patient parameters and lab values

Tasks

- Work practice problems on dose conversions and infusion rates
- Review case studies applying ADME concepts to therapy decisions

MAIN GOAL

Confidently calculate doses and interpret PK data to individualize therapy accurately.

WEEKS 9-12: Compounding and Advanced Calculations

Topics to study

- ☐ Nonsterile compounding techniques
- ☐ Sterile compounding/aseptic practices
- ☐ Alligation and dilution calculations
- ☐ Osmolarity and osmolality
- ☐ TPN calculations
- ☐ Stability and compatibility

Tasks

- Complete calculation drills on osmolarity and TPN formulations

MAIN GOAL

Master compounding requirements and complex calculations critical for safe medication preparation.

WEEKS 13-16: Drug Development, Research, and Literature Evaluation

Topics to study

- ☐ Clinical trial phases
- ☐ Emergency use authorizations
- ☐ Research design and blinding
- ☐ Common biostatistics tests/outcomes
- ☐ Critical appraisal of primary literature
- ☐ Evidence-based resource retrieval hierarchy

Tasks

- Analyze peer-reviewed studies for validity
- Build a reference chart of common statistical tests

MAIN GOAL

Evaluate research literature and statistical data to support evidence-based pharmacotherapy decisions.

WEEKS 17-20: Prescription Interpretation and Regulations

Topics to study

- ☐ Prescription components
- ☐ Indication and dosing regimen selection
- ☐ Dosage forms and route considerations
- ☐ Boxed warnings and REMS programs
- ☐ Laboratory parameters for safety monitoring

Tasks

- Complete daily prescription-interpretation drills with error identification
- Create summary cards for REMS and boxed-warning medications

MAIN GOAL

Quickly interpret prescriptions and apply regulatory safeguards.

WEEKS 21-24: Therapeutic Substitution, Immunizations, and Medication Handling

Topics to study

- ☐ Formulary restrictions
- ☐ Biosimilar selection principles
- ☐ Immunization schedules
- ☐ Vaccine storage and handling
- ☐ Hazardous drug handling and disposal

Tasks

- Practice substitution decision-making with shortage scenarios

MAIN GOAL

Apply therapeutic substitution principles and safely manage immunizations.

WEEKS 25-28: Patient Assessment and Special Populations

Topics to study

- ☐ Medication and allergy history
- ☐ Comprehensive health history
- ☐ Pediatric pharmacotherapy
- ☐ Geriatric pharmacotherapy
- ☐ Drug–drug and drug–food interaction identification

Tasks

- Conduct mock patient interviews focusing on pediatrics and geriatrics

MAIN GOAL

Develop patient-centered assessment skills, especially for pediatric and geriatric medication management.

WEEKS 29-32: Therapeutic Monitoring and Adverse Events

Topics to study

- ☐ Setting therapeutic goals
- ☐ Identifying medication errors
- ☐ Adverse drug reaction mechanisms
- ☐ Toxicology and overdose management
- ☐ Therapeutic drug monitoring and dose adjustments

Tasks

- Practice calculating vancomycin and aminoglycoside dosing adjustments

MAIN GOAL

Recognize and resolve therapy problems through vigilant monitoring and adverse event management.

WEEKS 33-36: Patient Education and Self-Care

Topics to study

- ☐ Counseling techniques for lifestyle modifications
- ☐ Medication storage and disposal
- ☐ OTC medication selection
- ☐ Dietary supplement evidence
- ☐ Device education for inhalers, injectors, and monitors

Tasks

- Record practice counseling sessions and self-evaluate clarity and accuracy

MAIN GOAL

Deliver clear counseling and self-care guidance to empower safe, informed patient decisions.

WEEKS 37-40: Professional Practice and Public Health

Topics to study

- ☐ Error reporting systems
- ☐ Tobacco cessation
- ☐ Social determinants of health
- ☐ Ethical principles
- ☐ Patient confidentiality
- ☐ Professional conduct

Tasks

- Debate ethical dilemmas and document resolutions

MAIN GOAL

Integrate ethics, public health initiatives, and reporting duties into everyday professional practice.

WEEKS 41-44: Management, Leadership, and Comprehensive Review

Topics to study

- ☐ Pharmacy operations
- ☐ Inventory and supply management
- ☐ Quality improvement processes
- ☐ Mentorship, delegation, and feedback
- ☐ Full-length NAPLEX practice exam content review

Tasks

- Conduct simulated NAPLEX exams and analyze performance gaps
- Draft a personal plan for professional development

MAIN GOAL

Finalize readiness through full examinations while mastering management and leadership competencies.

WEEKS 45-52: Final Push

You made it! You've been working hard all year to make sure you're ready for test day, and now the big day is right around the corner.

Take a moment to acknowledge everything you've accomplished: countless hours of studying, practice questions, and reviewing challenging topics.

For your final few weeks, take some practice tests and brush up on your weaker areas. Then, rest up for the big day!

Good luck—you've got this!



Your success on the NAPLEX depends on *how* you study, not just how much.

Following this breakdown lets you stay on track without burning out and feeling overwhelmed.

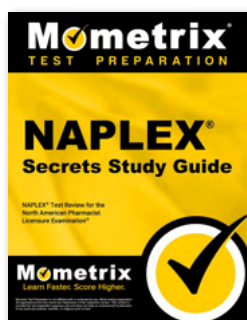
Keep practicing, stay curious, and trust your ability to apply what you've learned accurately and efficiently.

Success comes with persistence and the right tools.

You've got this!

Need more resources? Scan the QR codes below to check out test prep materials from Mometrix that are specifically designed to help you ace the NAPLEX.

You can also visit https://www.testprepreview.com/naplex_practice.htm to take a NAPLEX practice test.



NAPLEX Study Guide



NAPLEX Flashcards